

New England Power Pool

ORDER No. EA-173

I. BACKGROUND

Exports of electric energy from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. §824a(e)).

On January 23, 1998, New England Power Pool (NEPOOL), an association of New England utilities, submitted to the Office of Fossil Energy (FE), of the Department of Energy (DOE), a request for a temporary emergency authorization to transmit electric energy to Canada. Hydro Quebec, the provincial electric utility of the Province of Quebec, Canada, as a result of an emergency on its system caused by severe weather and weather-related transmission constraints, sought emergency assistance from NEPOOL to deliver 39 megawatts (MW) of electric energy through the international transmission lines located at Highgate, Vermont.

Severe icing and the loss of a significant portion of the transmission systems normally used to transmit electric energy between the United States and Canada, and between generating facilities and load in Canada requires an immediate, flexible response from the Federal government of the United States. The urgency of the NEPOOL request can be satisfied only by the issuance of this temporary emergency order which precludes a public notice and comment period.

NEPOOL currently has authority to export electric energy to Canada only through the 450 kV DC line located at Norton, Vermont. Those facilities are owned by Vermont Electric Transmission Company (VETCo). Construction of the VETCo facility was authorized in Presidential Permit PP-76. The facilities that NEPOOL herein seeks authority to use are owned by The Joint Owners of the Highgate Project (Joint Owners), a group of Vermont electric utility companies. The 345 kV facilities, located at Franklin, Vermont, were authorized in Presidential Permit PP-82. However, the Joint Owners do not have the capability of supplying the emergency needs of Hydro Quebec.

II. FINDING and DECISION

The circumstances described in NEPOOL's letter application in FE Docket EA-173 to temporarily export up to 39 MW of electric energy to Canada for a period of one week can only be accommodated through the issuance of a temporary emergency authorization. Since the exports proposed by NEPOOL will not exceed the previously determined technical limits of the transmission facilities as presented in the electric reliability review prepared on July 2, 1992, and

supplemented on February 28, 1994, DOE has fulfilled the statutory requirements of the FPA. Specifically, the authorized facilities, when operated within the existing security constrained export limits, and when limited to an instantaneous transmission rate of 200 MW, will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Similarly, DOE finds that it has adequately satisfied its responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 through adoption of the Finding of No Significant Impact dated March 7, 1985, and contained in FE Docket EA-82.

III. ORDER

Based on the above finding, it is hereby ordered that NEPOOL is authorized to export electric energy to Canada on an emergency basis under the following terms and conditions:

(A) The electric energy exported by NEPOOL pursuant to this Order may be delivered to Canada through the 345-kV (operated at 120-kV) facilities of the Joint Owners of the Highgate Project located at Highgate, Vermont. The construction of these transmission facilities was previously authorized in Presidential Permit PP-82.

(B) Exports authorized herein are limited to a maximum instantaneous rate of transmission of 39 MW.

(C) This authorization is for a period of 14 days from the date of this Order. Should the emergency situation on the Hydro Quebec system exceed the authorized period, NEPOOL may continue to provide assistance without seeking further authorization from the DOE but must notify DOE of this action.

(D) Exports by NEPOOL made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-82 to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 200 MW nor cause a violation of the following security constrained export limits:

<u>Vermont Total</u> <u>Load (MW)</u>	<u>Security Constrained</u> <u>Maximum Export (MW)</u>
1000	0
900	40
800	90
700	125
600	150
500	170

(E) Exports authorized herein are incremental to those exports authorized to NEPOOL in FE Order PP-76-EA.

(F) NEPOOL shall reduce or terminate exports to Canada, including emergency sales, during any system operating conditions which would create potential reliability problems on the U.S. electric power supply system.

(G) In scheduling the delivery of electricity exports to Canada, NEPOOL shall comply with all reliability criteria, standards, and guides of the North American Electric Reliability Council and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council.

(H) Within 5 days of the conclusion of this emergency, NEPOOL shall submit a report to DOE providing (1) the gross amount of electricity delivered, in kilowatt hours; (2) the consideration received for such energy; and (3) the maximum hourly rate of transmission, in kilowatts. The report shall be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-0305.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 23, 1998.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Office of Fossil Energy
Washington, D.C.**

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**Temporary Emergency Order
Authorizing Electricity Exports to Canada**

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